



## BRISTOL CATHEDRAL CHOIR SCHOOL

The Cathedral School was founded in 1140 and refounded in 1542, the older buildings form part of the monastic buildings of St. Augustine's Abbey. It lies in the historic heart of Bristol, close to College Green, the University, the Central Library, the Museum, the Old Vic, the Watershed and in the shadow of the Cathedral, whose choristers it continues to educate. The area has been the focus of Bristol's urban regeneration via the Harbourside development and the School is at the heart of the city's cultural quarter.

The move to Academy status, with Music and Mathematics as its specialisms, offers new opportunities. The Academy has a Year 7 co-educational intake of 112 pupils. The Academy is seeing an expansion in number from its present size but it is determined to retain its outstanding reputation for pastoral support and community spirit. The school roll is likely to rise to around 700 students by 2014.

Academically, the Academy is organised into five Faculties, each with its own Director. Pastorally, the School is organised into Lower and Middle Schools and the Sixth Form, each with its own Head of Key Stage, though this is likely to change by September 2012. Within the year group, the pupils are organised into forms; each form is assigned a tutor, who is concerned with the welfare and progress of each individual. The School enjoys a well-deserved reputation within the City for the quality of its pastoral care and the development of individuals consequently examination results are excellent. In 2010 the A\*-C pass rate, including English and Maths, was 75% and at A level 42% of all examinations taken were awarded A and B grades.

To complement all the academic endeavour and achievement, the School offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities. The School fields teams in Rugby, Netball, Soccer, Hockey, Cricket and Tennis, and is proud of the representative honours achieved by individuals. A successful rugby tour to Canada took place in July 2007 and 2009 and there was a cricket tour to India in December 2005 and to South Africa in the autumn of 2008. Additionally there is an Activities Week for all KS3 students many of whom compete in the Ten Tors challenge and are given opportunities to take part in coasteering and orienteering events. Trips to Uganda take place every two years visiting our sister school, St. James', with whom we have had a very long-standing partnership. Two BCCS students spend 6 months there on a GAP placement organised by the schools.

Clearly music is at the heart of the new Academy and we were the first choir school in the country to make this transition. Over a third of pupils have instrumental music lessons and the School's First Orchestra has undertaken tours to the USA, Prague and France. Furthermore, the Cathedral Choristers tour abroad regularly and there are additional tours planned for the school's vocal groups, bands and jazz ensembles planned over the next two years. The culture of the school is inclusive; there are always exciting dramatic and musical opportunities and a wide range of clubs and societies. There is strong commitment to charitable activities: the students choose three charities each year and are set fund raising challenges in relation to these. Art and Drama are first-rate and very well supported by pupils and parents.

The School has a Christian foundation and the whole school meets three times a week in the Cathedral, though we welcome into our community members of all faiths and indeed those with none; the emphasis is on tolerance and respect for the beliefs of others and we are proud of the cultural and ethnic diversity that is part of our community. Bristol Cathedral Choir School is privileged to enjoy the services of a committed, caring staff, while its pupils are enthusiastic well behaved and friendly. Our first full Ofsted report as an Academy is available on our website [www.bccs.bristol.sch.uk](http://www.bccs.bristol.sch.uk)

An historic, successful school is becoming a pioneering Academy, so it is an exciting time to be joining a vibrant, forward-looking community.

Neil Blundell  
Principal